

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-31, 34-35, 40-61 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation "wherein no significant amount of zirconium compound or magnesium compound is or has been added to the aqueous suspension of titanium dioxide base material." Support for this change is found in the specification at p3 line 17, wherein a magnesium compound is added after the adjustment of the pH. Claim 25 has been amended likewise to limit the addition of a magnesium compound to a step after the adjustment of the pH and to make it dependent on claim 2 instead of claim 1. Claim 52 has been amended to add the same limitation as claim 1.

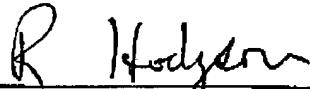
Applicant states that no significant amount means, as noted in a previous communication, for the person skilled in the art an amount which does not modify the properties of the material (here: the optical, stability and processing properties of the pigment). Magnesium was not added on purpose to the original mixture. It may be present due to an impurity contained either in the TiO₂ particle (which is derived from natural ore) or in the chemical compounds added.

The attached form 1449 (Modified) gives a reference (British Patent Document 724,751, published 2/23/550 pertaining to the present application. A copy of this document is attached.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 is respectfully requested. An additional fee of \$790 is required. The required fees and any insufficiency or overage (except issue fees) may be debited or credited to deposit account 08/2240. On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application and its early allowance is respectfully requested.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a) and (b), 37 CFR 1.86(f)-
I hereby certify that the following attached correspondence comprising Amendment & Remarks & IDS, (13 pp), 1449 form, and patent document (4pp) is being sent by facsimile transmission to FAX NUMBER 703-872-9306 on April 8, 2005.

Respectfully,



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